

“ Clinton was settled by people from Massachusetts and Connecticut with the addition of some from Mount Pleasant which was settled at an early period. Pecks, Stantons, Stearns, McMullens, moved from Mt. Pleasant. The Nortons, Grennells, Gaylords, Sanders and Griswolds were from Massachusetts and Connecticut and these with the families from Mt. Pleasant were the ones who came into what then was a wilderness of hemlock, beech and maple and cleared the land so that they could provide food and clothing for themselves and families and to make homes. We often think of the church as being the only divine institution that the all wise Creator has given man but the God given home was established ages before the church and a godly home is yet God's best earthly gift to man and these men were home builders and were the type that built homes when truth, integrity, industry and thrift were taught and the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man were the controlling principles of their lives.

The Clinton Church was not only the religious center but the social center also. I remember the old church or meeting house but dimly. I well remember the storm that destroyed it as the hail stones broke the windows in our home and I was so frightened that I went behind the stove. I also remember Elder Curtis holding services in the grove back of the present meeting house after the old building was destroyed by the cyclone. Elder Curtis to me, was a man to whom God had given the keys of Heaven and could shut or open them as he thought best. As for the sermons, I have no remembrance of them only as they increased my ideas as to his power to punish sin and reward good. With all my boyish fears, I never for a moment doubted that but Elder Curtis was just and whatever he said must be so and right. The prayer meetings were a pleasure to me. I listened more as a lover of music does to the tones and as I close my eyes and look back, I can hear the tones of Bro. Randall, Deacon Davenport, Horace Griswold, David Sanders, Sidney Norton, Milo Gaylord, Deacon Grennell, Samuel Lee and my Father. The prayers were all more or less scriptural but were a true and beautiful tribute to the lives of the men who were making them. Time will only allow me to mention a few of the men who impressed me most, and Francis Griswold stands out as a character that for his time is typical of the men of today who in common language are called captains of industry. He was always up and doing and his energy and push made others work also. What Clinton owes to Francis Griswold we can not tell. He was a power for good in the community not only for its material well being but of its moral and spiritual growth.